

Lastly, there is the great and numerically far preponderating class of persons who look at, or borrow, or accept the free gift of, or who occasionally even buy, special treatises. Which of the above courses they take is of no consequence. If, by any means, "Brown on the Eves," or "Jones on the Rectum" can find a niche beside "Pears' soap," where memory holds her seat, Mr. Brown and Mr. Jones are content.

From such our journal endeavors to keep aloof. Returning to Dr. Ball and Mr. Cooper, the former has produced a treatise which stamps him as a surgeon of talent and experience and as an author unsparing of pains. The latter is well known as a specialist in rectal surgery of very long and varied experience, and as one of the most successful men in the profession in London. If, therefore, Mr. Cooper needed any justification for writing his book it would be found in the natural curiosity of men to know what the experienced and successful have to tell concerning their principles and practice. He has, moreover, earned a right to be heard by twenty years of silence.

The difference between the two books may be seen by comparing almost any two chapters dealing, each, with the same subject. Mr. Cooper gives a plain unvarnished narrative of what he has seen of the given diseases and of what he is in the habit of doing for its cure.

He refers incidentally to the teaching or practice of others, and generally with fairness and freedom from prejudice. In short, the 14 chapters of the book resemble a series of clinical lectures without illustrative cases, if such be possible. And although the cases are not reported, they seem to the reader to be in the background, as it were, for the little book is pervaded throughout by a practical tone.

A corresponding chapter by Dr. Ball is a kind of concentrated monograph. It surveys the teaching, and marshals the recorded observations of leading authorities, living and dead, British, American and foreign. In doing this Dr. Ball shows very great ability. It would be difficult to surpass some of these chapters, *e. g.*, that on excision for cancer, either in clearness, brevity, sound judgment, or in a certain quietude and ease of style.

CHARLES B. KEETLEY (London).

HIP DISEASE IN CHILDHOOD, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO ITS TREATMENT BY EXCISION. By G. A. WRIGHT, B.A., M.B. Oxon., Assistant Surgeon, Manchester Royal Infirmary, Surgeon to the General Hospital for Children, Manchester and Pendlebury, Lecturer in Clinical Surgery in the Owen's College. 8vo. Illustrated., pp. 246; London: Longmans.

This work may be divided into two parts, namely: (1). A brief résumé of the works which have been written and the opinions which have been expressed within the last hundred years upon hip disease joint; and (2) the author's own experience of the same affection.

In this notice it will be sufficient to deal with the latter.

At the time of sending this book to press Mr. Wright had excised the hip one hundred times. It is important to know the opinion of a surgeon at such a stage of his experience. The following are Mr. Wright's own words: "I should expect, among 100 cases excised at the time I recommend to lose or have to amputate about 15, to have about 10 unsatisfactory or useless limbs and 75 useful limbs, with or without sinuses, and with shortening varying from one to three inches."

The time recommended by Mr. Wright for excision is the time of the appearance of signs of pus outside the joint or of evidence of its existence within it. He agrees, however, with Mr. Holmes that a distinction is to be made in this respect between ordinary hospital cases and the cases sometimes met with in private practice, believing that in children of the well-to-do the period of non-intervention in a case of hip disease may be prolonged with good ground for hoping that the pus may, in time, become absorbed.

The line of excision selected by Mr. Wright is one over the trochanter in the middle line of that prominence and slightly concave forward. He prefers to remove the trochanter rather than to let it remain, even when that process is perfectly sound, believing that its presence would interfere with the perfect coaptation of the resected parts, and he draws marked attention to the danger of fracture in thrusting, for the purpose of removal, the head of the femur, out of the wound, preferring to divide *in situ* the neck of the bone. The extending apparatus he adjusts before the operation and he commences extension directly after it. He uses Bryant's splint almost invariably while the patient keeps his bed and Thomas' splint when he is able to get about.

There are short chapters upon the less common affections of the hip, such as syphilitic disease, congenial dislocation and hysterical affections, and the work concludes with an excellent summary of the hundred cases of excision, all of them interesting, which have fallen to the lot of the author. In the dogmatic part of this work there is not much that is original. The experience, however, which Mr. Wright has gained, and which he has been good enough to make public will be of great use to others, and his book will rank as an authority, concise and clear, upon the subject with which it deals.

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